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Sir, and it was said that he was held up at Tiruchirappalli. Later on, now, he has turned up. He could not be here in time. What I wish to impress on the Government is that when the Assembly is in session the Ministers should remain at the headquarters so as to be in the Assembly in time so that this kind of complication could be avoided. The opportunity for putting supplementaries would not have been taken away had the Minister been here in time."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" He has given the reason why he was late. The train came late and nobody could help it. He was on tour not on a week-day but on Sunday which is not a working day. He was expected here this morning but the train came late. Suppose the hon. Member, Mr. Swayamprakasam himself was in that position. Could he have made the train run faster? " (Laughter.)

Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" If at all they want to undertake a tour when the Assembly is in session it must be nearby places and not distant ones. Our anxiety is that they must attend the Assembly in time."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There was no difficulty about it, Sir. I am sorry that the telegram that I sent you did not reach you in time. I mentioned in that telegram that all my questions might be taken up in the later part of the Question Hour to-day itself."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I have not seen that telegram. Probably it is in the office. Yesterday was a holiday and I do not know anything about it. Even to-day, I came here only ten minutes before eight o'clock. I do not blame the Minister for coming late. He has given a valid reason for coming late.

" Now, I see starred question No. 641 has not been answered. Let it be answered first."

Central Cottage Industries Research Institute.

* 641 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any Central Cottage Industries Research Institute has been established in this State, in pursuance of G.O. Ms. No. 213, Rural Welfare, dated 27th February 1952?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. One has been established at Madras."

Employment of Tramway workers.

* 613 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons thrown out of employment as a result of the closure of the Madras Electric Tramways, Limited;

(*b*) the number of them, if any, who were absorbed in Government service;

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(c) whether any arrangement has been made to grant interim relief to those who are unemployed and if so the nature of the relief granted; and

(d) whether the Government propose to take over the management and conduct the tramways?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) 1,650 workers.

" (b) One hundred and forty-nine ex-tramway workers have been selected as suitable for appointment in the Transport department. Candidates for appointment to certain categories have to undergo successfully a short course of training. Seven candidates have actually joined duty.

" (c) & (d) No, Sir. But their Provident funds have become available to them after cancellation of the licence of the company."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" சில இடங்களில் டிராம்வே பாதைகள் மூடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. வேறு சில இடங்களில் தண்டவாளங்கள் பெயர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இவைகளையெல்லாம் பழுதுபார்த்து மீண்டும் டிராம்வே நடத்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? அப்படி நடத்துவதற்கு ஏதாவது உத்தேசம் இருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member would have already seen news in the Press that the Hon. the Chief Minister has been examining as to how the tramways could be revived."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Has any query been sent by the Hon. the Minister for Labour to the Hon. the Minister for Transport as to why only eleven candidates out of such a large number have been absorbed in the Transport Service and if such a letter has been sent, whether reasons have been furnished by the Transport Minister? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether it has been done by my predecessor. Anyway, I shall look into it."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know what is the number of persons which our Government are capable of absorbing in their service? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I cannot give a definite answer."

Increase of food production in Tanjore under the National Extension Scheme.

* 616 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any proposals have been received by the Government from the district officials in Tanjore to increase food production in Tanjore district under the National Extension Scheme; and